

## DDJF Handles Sensitive Materiel

*By Jessica Walter-Groft, DDC Command Affairs*

Highly sensitive, leading-edge electronic components used on military aircraft weapons and navigation systems like fiber optic gyroscopes and high resolution infrared viewing equipment are all standard issue at Defense Distribution Depot Jacksonville, FL (DDJF).

As the primary distribution center supporting the Naval Air Depot Jacksonville, a U.S. Navy aircraft repair facility, DDJF employees routinely handle fragile equipment from fighter and attack planes, helicopters and other patrol, antisubmarine, transport and reconnaissance aircraft.

DDJF not only stocks the parts needed for the neighboring depot to repair aviation equipment, but they also provide additional services that keep the depot as productive as possible including removing the packaging from equipment on its way to the depot for repair. This service decreases Naval Air Depot Jacksonville's workload and prevents interruptions in work flow so that the technicians can spend more time on restoring the equipment to an operational condition.

"DLA is our main source of standard stock," said CAPT David J. Beck, SC, USN, commanding officer of Naval Air Depot Jacksonville. "Without their coordinated efforts, it would be hard for us to maintain our success."

Many of the parts received at DDJF are in need of repair, but before they can be transported to the neighboring Naval repair facility, they have to be "de-trashed"—a delicate operation, despite the harsh connotation of the term, that describes the removal of many levels of protective packaging.

Even unpacking a damaged item can be a very time-consuming and tenuous process. "De-packaging or 'de-trashing' requires skill and precision to properly remove the packaging without causing further damage," explained CDR James Smart, SC, USN, DDJF's commanding officer.

The bare item is then wheeled next door to the maintenance depot on a cart

specifically designed to protect the vulnerable item.

And when the part is back in working order, it returns to DDJF where it is carefully packaged for re-issue to the military or stored for later use. Because of the sensitive nature of the materiel, the packaging process can require up to five levels of packaging—anything from the basic bubble wrap and inflatable air barriers to expanding Polystyrene foam and custom-built wooden bracing.

"Our employees are highly trained in the area of proper packaging, and they give each item special attention to ensure each product arrives at the destination ready for use," said CDR Smart.

These packaging services provided by DDJF not only help to extend the life of the aircraft components, but also to increase the availability of assets to America's Warfighters. And, any items that maintain the military's mission readiness are definitely sensitive materiel.

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**Wrap Artist.** *Ron Wilson, Packaging Specialist at DDJF, begins the packaging process on an aircraft fuel heater.*



**Bracing for Departure.** *DDJF Woodworker James "Danny" Jones completes construction of a customized wood crate to ship a nose assembly for a P-3 Orion antisubmarine and surveillance plane.*



**DDC Mission**  
To Distribute, Store,  
and Manage Materiel  
and Information  
Enabling a Seamless,  
Tailored, Worldwide  
DoD Distribution  
Network that Provides  
Effective and Efficient  
Support to the  
Combatant  
Commands, Military  
Services and  
Other Agencies...  
In Theater and Out...  
During War  
and in Peace.